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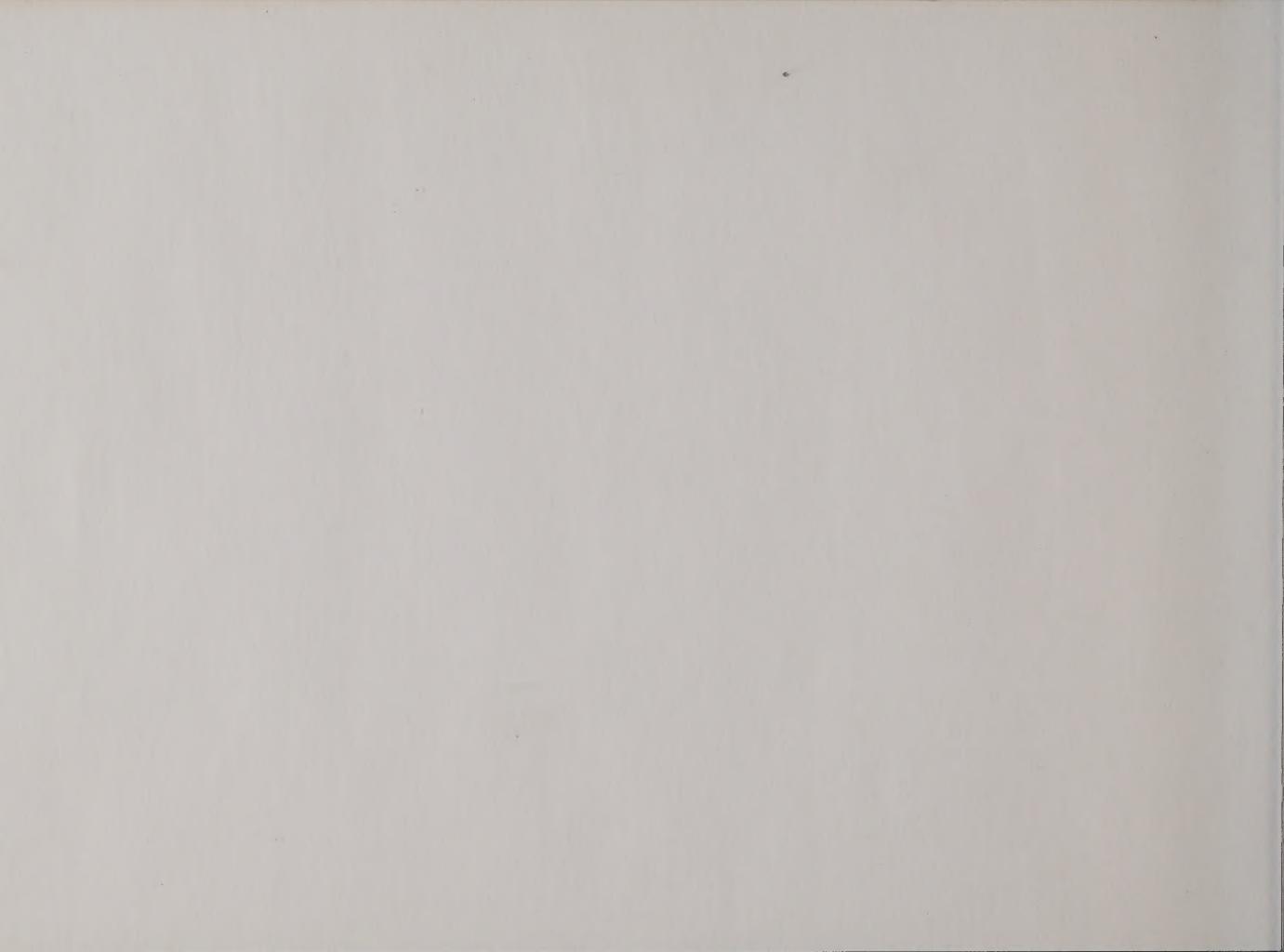
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EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH
CHATTANOOGA, OHIO

1867 - 1947

Souvenir Booklet of
St. Paul Evangelical and Reformed Church
Chattanooga, Ohio



PUBLISHED IN COMMEMORATION OF THE EIGHTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGREGATION

Church Organized November 17, 1867
Celebration Held November 16, 1947

FOREWORD

Allen County Public
Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, "Hitherto hath Jehovah helped us." I Sam. 7:12.

As Samuel and Israel were assembled on the fields of Mizpah and recalled battles fought, victories won, work completed and blessings received, they endeavored to express their gratitude to God by erecting the monument referred to above. This crude but sacred memorial was to remind them forever that God loves the faithful and provides for them. This Anniversary booklet is our Ebenezer. It is a memorial to remind us of the blessings which God has showered upon us these eighty years. As we review the past and observe the manifold ways in which God blessed our forefathers and us; and then measure our own short-comings with these blessings; when we consider how faithfully the Saviour, the Good Shepherd, has led us, we recall the words of David: "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that Thou hast brought me hitherto?" II Sam. 7:12. Then again as we recall God's loving kindness, we shall raise our hands and thoughts heavenward in praise and thanksgiving with this same humble king and say: "Bless the Lord, O my Soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Ps. 103:1-4. The history of St. Paul, recorded in this booklet, reveals a progress of which we can justly feel proud. From small beginnings we have gradually developed into a church which is a witness to the fact that the rural church not only still exists; but is as active, as progressive, and as essential to the kingdom of God, as our city churches. Though we have reasons to feel proud of our achievements, let us give honor to whom honor is due and confess with the Psalmist: "Not unto us, O God, not unto us; but unto thy name give glory."

Since some of the oldest records are incomplete and dimmed with age, may all mistakes be overlooked. May this booklet be read with the eye of a student seeking to profit by past achievements and with an earnest desire to further the work of the church. In writing this history the writer has only one motive and that is to help the reader to be a more loyal child of God and St. Paul's church.

May we then dedicate this anniversary book:

To the deceased members and friends of St. Paul, who labored faithfully to establish and perpetuate their faith in Christ and His kingdom; and having completed their life work have gone to their eternal reward.

To the men, women and children, sons and daughters of St. Paul who, mindful of their spiritual heritage, are carrying on in the spirit of those who have gone on before them, with fervent zeal and undiminished vigor.

In conclusion may this booklet prove a pleasing memorial to the triune God. Furthermore may all readers be led to confess with Samuel: "Hitherto hath Jehovah helped us." Then, dear reader, your pastor's efforts in preparing this booklet will not have been in vain.

May the blessing of the triune God be with one and all now, and forevermore.

Your pastor,

H. C. Ahrens.

2263625



ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH



Front row: Mrs. H. C. Ahrens
Back row: Ralph

Ruth
Herman

Rev. H. C. Ahrens
Earl

OUR PASTOR'S FAMILY



First row: John Weisenborn, Vice President; Morris Koch, Secretary; Henry Deitsch, Elder; Rev. H. C. Ahrens, Pastor.

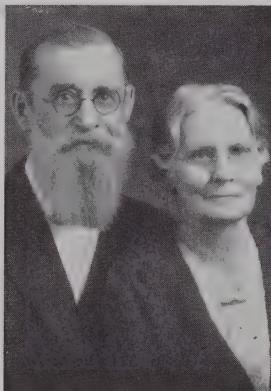
Last row: Theo. Bollenbacher, President; Herbert Schaadt, Financial Secretary; Victor Bollenbacher, Trustee; Frank Simerik, Treasurer.

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL



Rev. A. J. Wahl

Former Pastors



Rev. and Mrs. S. Egger



Rev. Edward A. Mayer



Warren Deitsch

and

Sons of

St. Paul



Noel Gehm

Pastors of St. Paul's Church

Gladly would we have given you all of the pictures of the pastors which have served St. Paul's Church if this had been possible. A compilation of the names of the pastors and the years of service is herewith given.

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| A. Fismer | 1867-1870 |
| C. Eppens | 1870-1872 |
| I. G. Neuschmid | 1872-1874 |
| J. F. Engelbach | 1874-1876 |
| C. J. Bohnen | 1877-1880 |
| Aime S. Ebinger | 1880-1882 |
| Samuel Egger | 1882-1888 |
| Joseph A. Steinhart | 1888-1889 |
| Karl Mueller | 1890-1894 |
| Samuel Egger | 1894-1926 |
| A. J. Wahl | 1926-1938 |
| E. A. Mayer | 1938-1944 |
| H. C. Ahrens | 1944 |

THE HISTORY OF ST. PAUL

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Psa. 127: 1.

Pioneer History

"We the undersigned have organized ourselves as a congregation whose name shall be:

THE EVANGELICAL ST. PAUL CONGREGATION IN LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY, OHIO

Though we feel ourselves to be a part of the whole Evangelical Church where ever it may be found, and feel bound together in the unity and communion of faith and hope, yet we feel justified to organize ourselves, according to the free institutions of our beloved homeland America, into a self governing congregation. We further write and subscribe to this constitution, which is in accord with the Word of God and the laws of our state and nation, so that this congregation may continue to exist and progress, and further godliness among us. I Cor. 14:33-40; Hebr. 13:23-25."

This statement from the preamble of the first Constitution of our St. Paul's Church expresses the spirit in which our first church was organized.

Some of the organizers of our church came direct from Germany, others were natives of this country with a German background, whose parents first settled in the eastern states and later migrated to the southwest section of Ohio, primarily in Hamilton and Butler counties. They all sought new homes here in this former fever infested swampland and through suffering and toil, transformed it into the bread basket of Ohio. They sought even more, they sought God. The spirit of America, the spirit of liberty and unity, poured through their veins; even as the spirit of the Evangelical Church of Germany dwelt in their hearts. They worshipped with their Lutheran brethren on arriving in Mercer County, but they were not entirely satisfied. They had been reared in the faith of the united church of Germany. They were Evangelical, Lutheran, and Reformed, seeking unity in faith and doctrine. They believed, "in essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty," even as the beloved St. Paul expressed it. "Endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There



View of the Present Church Sanctuary

is one body and one Spirit, even as ye are all called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all and in you all." Eph. 4:3-6.

Consequently as early as 1855 attempts were made to establish a united church with an Evangelical background. Rev. J. D. Gackenheimer, educated in the missionhouse of Basel, Switzerland, was sent to America to serve German

settlers with the Word of God. After serving two years in Pennsylvania, he accepted a call to St. Paul's Church, Harrison township, near Wren. He organized this church in 1850 and served it for nearly twenty-five years. During this time he frequently came to Chattanooga to minister to the German people of this community. He administered the sacrament of baptism to many of the children and the sacrament of Holy Communion to the adults. It was largely through his efforts that the first Evangelical Church was organized in this community. A church was erected where the Zion Lutheran Church now stands with the thought of a united church in mind. Due to differences of opinion on Church doctrine, the Evangelical group sold their interests to the Lutheran group and organized an Evangelical Church.

According to the Church records of our St. Paul's Church, Rev. A. Fismer was extended a call and began his ministry in this community Nov. 17, 1867. Sixteen communicants attended the first communion service held on Christmas day a few weeks later.

The first Church services were held in the homes of those who were able to accommodate their fellow believers in Christ. As the pastor went from home to home ministering to his small flock, he planned with them the erection of their first Church. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob J. Baker donated two acres of land for a building site, the place where the present parish hall and parsonage now stand. The rest joined them in felling the trees, hewing the logs, and sawing the lumber for the new church, which was erected just east of the present parsonage. It was indeed a busy winter for these sturdy and Godfearing pioneers. On March 5, 1868, they laid the corner stone with appropriate

services. Even though the spring plowing and planting required much effort, their heart was in their work. They erected a Church besides. Consequently three months later on the Second Sunday after Trinity, June 21, 1868, the new church was dedicated to the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Words cannot describe the joy prevalent in the hearts of these Christians as they sang the praises of God and worshipped Him in Spirit and truth, that day. On their home-ward way, in carts, in carriages, on horse back, on road wagons, or walking like the Emmaus disciples, their hearts burned within them as they recalled the scriptures revealed to them. It was a day they could not forget; and that we their children shall not forget.

Wm. Koch and George Bollenbacher were the first elders and John Bauer and J. J. Baker the first trustees.

Being Evangelical at heart, St. Paul united with the German Evangelical Synod of the West, or later known as the Evangelical Synod of North America, on April 22, 1869. Even the Synod they joined was still in its infancy at that time.

Like their namesake, St. Paul, they were missionary minded; for on February 7, 1869, they received an offering for the American Bible Society. The church board later received a membership certificate from the society.

It wasn't long after the church was erected that their beloved pastor and his family found themselves comfortably housed as comfort went then, in a log parsonage just north of the present one. Verena Elizabeth Fismer was the first child born in the new parsonage.

Following are some of the earliest accounts of the records of St. Pauls.

First Baptisms

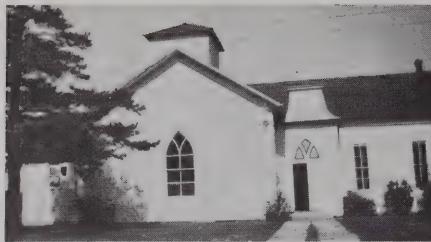
Carl, son of Carl and Barbara Stumpf.
Magdalene Barbara, daughter of John Christian and Mary Fisher.

John Godfried, son of John Christian and Mary Weisenborn.

Adam Anton, son of Fred and Katherine Schaadt.



View of the Former Church Sanctuary



Our Parish Hall

First Confirmands

These were confirmed March 21, 1869.

John Jacob Bollenbacher.
Caroline Christina Bollenbacher.
John Adam Koch.
Peter Schlafmann.
Mrs. George Schlafmann.

First Deaths

John Godfried, son of John C. and Mary C. Weisenborn.
Barbara Stumpf, nee Geisler, wife of Philip Stumpf.

We do not know where Rev. Fismar went after completing his pastorate here but we are informed that his family, living in St. Louis, made a contribution to the corner stone of our present Church in 1941. Records also reveal that his efforts were not vain in the Lord in the new Church of which he had the privilege of being the first pastor.

Rev. C. Eppens succeeded him in 1870. He apparently had the privilege of performing the first marriage in the new Church, namely that of Henry Nieman and Mary Breckhiser.

Rev. I. G. Neuschmid, the third pastor, was installed in 1872.

His successor, Rev. J. F. Engelbach, came in 1874 and like his two succeeding predecessors, remained only two years.

Rev. and Mrs. C. J. Bohnen and their children, William, Gustav, and Lorina arrived in this community in the spring of 1877. Rev. Bohnen was installed May 15 of that year. The Bohnen family, apparently, was the first pastor's family to feel the pangs of death in the new parsonage, for their daughter, Lorina, age 7, passed away May 4, 1879. The funeral services were conducted by C. P. Reiner of Harrison township, Van Wert County. Some of the older members recall her funeral.

Some recall a Christmas program in the old Church because of their first experiences with Santa Claus. Older members as well as children were reported as frightened by this strange creature.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Bohnen that preparations were made to build the North Church. The old log Church no longer provided adequate facilities for the growing congregation. Conditions had improved in the meantime, including building conditions. J. J. Baker, Adam Bollenbacher, and Wm. Gehm owned and operated a saw mill just east of the Church. The task of felling the trees and hauling the logs to the mill was still difficult. One of these woodsmen, Lewis Alt, now 90, reported that they worked from sunrise to sunset and walked several miles to and from work. In no time the Church was ready for construction. The corner stone was laid on the fourth Sunday after Trinity, 1880. Shortly thereafter Rev. Bohnen resigned.

On November 23, 1880, Rev. Aime S. Ebinger succeeded him. The following year, June 12, 1881, on the Sunday after Pentecost, the North Church was dedicated. Rev. J. D. Gackenheimer had charge of the dedicatory service. He was assisted by the pastors E. Wurst and C. Reiner of Van Wert County, and the local pastor.

By this time the following had signed the first constitution, the heading of which reads: The names of members of St. Paul's Church, Liberty Township, Mercer County, Ohio, February 25, 1868:

William Koch
Ferdinand Kable
John Bauer
Jacob J. Baker

Jacob Leininger
John F. Schaadt
George Bollenbacher
Christian Fisher

Philip Gehm
Anton Koch
Adam Schultz
J. J. Bollenbacher
Gottfried Linn
Peter Alt
Jacob Bollenbacher
Ludwig Alt
Adam Schaadt
George Bollenbacher
George Schlafmann
Charles Bollenbacher
Adam Bollenbacher

John Koch
Jacob Bollenbacher
Philip Stumpf
William Gehm
Jacob Muller
Jacob Wendel
John Schultz
Abraham Bollenbacher
Henry Trisel
Adam Alt
Philip Wendel
Wm. Baker



Our Parsonage

Modern History

Around this time the old log parsonage was replaced by the present parsonage which was remodeled in 1897 and improved at various times since then.

Rev. Ebinger was succeeded by Rev. Samuel Egger, who was installed Aug. 13, 1882. He came to this community a few months after graduating from Eden Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. In October of the same year the young pastor attended a wedding but not in the usual capacity for he brought with him into the parsonage a beautiful young woman who was to share the joys and sorrows of life with him. Little did they realize at that time that the greater part of their ministry would be devoted to St. Pauls, and this community. Under his able and faithful leadership the church grew in numbers.

One of the hardships of both laymen and pastors in those days, especially in winter, were the unimproved roads. Then one mile seemed approximately as far as five miles do today. Though the northern part of Liberty township was well supplied with churches, this was not true of the southern section. Young Egger realized that it was easier to bring the Church to the people than to bring the people to the Church over the highways of that day. A second Church seemed a necessity. The ambitious young minister saw an opportunity for greater service and took advantage of it. It wasn't long until the community to the south found itself busy preparing for another

new Church. John Deitsch Sr. offered a building site on the northwest corner of his farm as his contribution. Before long neighbors were hauling logs to a saw mill on the Peter Alt farm. We are informed that the only lumber purchased was shingles and plaster laths. One large white oak tree from the Ludwig Alt farm provided much of the flooring. The new Church (South Church) was completed in 1886. This missionary venture added the following new family names to our Church records: Brehm, Deitsch, Linn, Weitz, Weisman, Fickert, and German.

Realizing the need of a Church cemetery, the plot of ground just south of the Church was dedicated for this service. A child of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Alt was the first burial in the new cemetery.

It was with regrets that the two Churches accepted Rev. Egger's resignation on April 16, 1888.

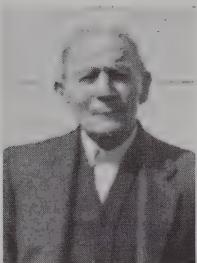
Rev. Joseph A. Steinhart succeeded Rev. S. Egger. He was installed May 1, 1888. The first Sunday School was recorded during his pastorate starting May 1, 1888.

On June 6, 1889, the Church and community received a shock which has never been forgotten for it was on this date that J. J. Baker was sawed to death in his saw mill.

Pastor Steinhart recorded the first Mission and Harvest Home festival. The offering for the day was \$53.07. Home



Peter Alt
Age 94 Years



Ludwig Alt
Age 90 Years



Adam Kable
Age 87 Years

THREE OLDER MEMBERS

mission \$18.93. Foreign missions \$14.00. Debt on Eden Seminary \$20.00. Postage \$.14.

He brought his pastorate to a close Nov. 1, 1889.

Rev. and Mrs. Karl Mueller and family began their ministry here April 11, 1890. It was while here that their son Th. W. Mueller, D.D., now dean of Elmhurst College, was born.

The annual minutes of the congregational meeting reveal that there was to be six hours of summer school and four hours of Catechetical instruction daily. Just a reminder to the children of today what was required of father and mother or grandpa and grandma in their day. The constitution reveals that the congregation believed strongly in religious education.

Rev. Mueller left our community on July 6, 1894.

After spending six years in his home community Woodsfield, Ohio, Rev. S. Egger returned to St. Paul to set a record of service here which may never be equaled, a total of 38 years. The next 32 years were spent shepherding the congregation.

In 1898 the women of the congregation were granted permission to organize a "Frauen Verein," Ladies' Aid. Words cannot express the blessings which this organization has brought to the congregation throughout the years.

The year 1913 found the congregation devoting one service a month to the English language and sponsoring the commencement exercises of the local high school.

For years it was customary to ring the "Vater Unser Glocke," the Lord's Prayer Bell, toward the close of the service as the congregation prayed the Lord's Prayer, a custom which was discontinued.

Some time around 1915 the Young People's League was organized. This organization has developed real leadership in the congregation and has given our young people an opportunity to express themselves.

By 1918 the congregation realized the need of more English in both Church and Sunday School and devoted the first two Sundays of the month to English.



Seated: Mrs. John Koch, Mrs. Anna Schaad, Mrs. Otto Wendel, Mrs. Wm. Weitz, Mrs. Val Deitsch, Mrs. Nettie Schaad, Mrs. Wm. Schaad, Mrs. Sophia Brehm, Mrs. Andy Bollenbacher, Mrs. Chas Bollenbacher, Mrs. Louise Bollenbacher, Mrs. Margaret Linn.
Second row: Mrs. M. A. Linn, Mrs. George Koch, Mrs. Elizabeth Bollenbacher, Mrs. Mary Stucky, Mrs. Lewis Schaad, Miss Katherine Kable, Mrs. Henry Deitsch, John Schaad, Henry Deitsch.
Third row: M. A. Linn, John Koch, Andy Bollenbacher, Chas Bollenbacher, George Koch, Andy Bauer, L. G. Baker, Jacob Garman.
Back row: Wm Schaad, Lewis Alt, Wm. Weitz, Otto Wendel, Jacob Baker, Lewis Schaad, John Brehm, Jacob Haas, Val Deitsch.

OUR ADULT MEMBERS—GROUP I

In this same year, June 19-24, St. Pauls entertained the Ohio District Conference. It was an experience never to be forgotten. The delegates in turn were "well pleased" with the gracious manner in which they were entertained.

St. Paul also participated in the Forward Movement of the early twenties and contributed \$1000.00.

In 1922 the congregation adopted an English constitution and began writing the minutes of the annual and quarterly meetings in the English language.

It was with heavy hearts that the congregation in its annual meeting of 1926 accepted the resignation of pastor Egger. He had become so much a part of the community that to this day some people speak of St. Pauls as the Egger Church. He accepted a call to St. Peter's Church, Van Wert, where he brought his active ministry to a close. He observed his 60th anniversary as a clergyman in 1942. In all these years he himself states that he "never found it necessary to deviate from believing and preaching the Bible." Though in his 90th year, he would still like to return to pastoral service. An active ministry such as his can only be brought to a close with the words of the master: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Rev. A. J. Wahl was called to take up the mantle of this aged prophet. He was installed Aug. 1, 1926.

In January of the following years the individual membership system was adopted. The high spot of 1927 was the observance of the 60th anniversary of St. Pauls. The three services of this Sunday, Nov. 20th, were conducted in both the German and English languages. Neighboring pastors participated. The motto for the day was: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty." The offering of the day was dedicated to a building fund for a new Church, indicating that even then the desire for a new house of God was prevalent.

One of the greatest problems of the Church of that day was of a financial nature. Thirty members, seeing a solution

to this problem in the duplex envelope system volunteered to give it a trial. We owe a debt of gratitude to these folks for instituting a system which has since been adopted by the Church and solved the financial problem of most Churches including our own.

Another need of both the Church and the community was a community center and Parish Hall. The community had no place for its institutes, farm bureau meetings, and the like. The Church had no place for social activities. Again St. Paul revealed the spirit of true brotherhood when at a call meeting of the congregation it was decided to discontinue the North Church and convert it into a Parish Hall, and use the South Church for all sacred services. The farewell service, held January 29, 1928, was a sad one, since the North Church had been the parent Church; but the sacrifice was a worthy one and in keeping with the faith of the fathers who also sought the best interest of both the Church and the community no matter how great the sacrifice.

In 1929 an extension was built to the Parish Hall for a stage. The League donated \$75.00, the Sunday School \$150.00, and the Cradle Roll \$15.00 to help defray the expenses. The balance was taken from the building fund. In the following year the steeple was removed.

It was in 1932 that the present pastor had the privilege of bringing the message for the annual mission festival and of visiting this community for the first time. Once after that, together with a number of young people from Salem Church, Marion, he attended a Young People's Regional Convention here. Those trips to Chattanooga in a Model "T" will long be remembered; but even more, the meals and the social activities at the Parish Hall. There was something impressive about the services, the choir, the meetings, and the spirit in general. May it ever be thus.

Rev. A. J. Wahl resigned in the January meeting of 1938, after completing the second longest pastorate in St. Pauls. He has since been pastor of St. Pauls Church of Dayton, Ky.



Front row: Oscar Bollenbacher, Lewis Brehm, Hugo Baker, Ervin Wood, Arlie Miller, Andy Deitsch, Edwin Schaad, Herbert Schaad.
Second row: Mrs. Oscar Bollenbacher, Mrs. Lewis Brehm, Mrs. Glenn Deitsch, Mrs. Bert Wendel, Mrs. Fred Miller, Mrs. Dula Henninger, Mrs. Kenneth Hoblet, Mrs. Herbert Schaad, Mrs. Ervin Wood, Glenn Deitsch, Mrs. Glenn Deitsch, Mrs. Leo Baker, Mrs. H. C. Ahrens, Rev. H. G. Ahrens.
Third row: Mrs. Lewis Brehm, Mrs. Victor Bollenbacher, Mrs. Anton Baker, Wm. Park, Mrs. Wm Park, Mrs. Ferd Bollenbacher, Mrs. Henry Gertz, Harold Wendel, Henry S. Bollenbacher, Mrs. Henry S. Bollenbacher, Mrs. Harold Wendel, Mrs. Amelia Weinmann, Mrs. Oscar Bollenbacher.
Fourth row: Arlie Koch, Val Linn, Mrs. Val Linn, Mrs. Andy Deitsch, Bert Worthing, Anton L. Baker, Hugo Schaad, Archie Bollenbacher, Mrs. Archie Bollenbacher, Mrs. Andy Gehm, Mrs. Edwin Schaad, Mrs. Theo Bollenbacher, Mrs. Kenneth Rutledge, Kenneth Rutledge.
Fifth row: Victor Bollenbacher, Andy Gehm, Argyle Branstetter, Mrs. Argyle Branstetter, Mrs. Fred Miller, Fred Miller, Theo Bollenbacher, Lawrence Baker, Elmer Baker, Albert Bollenbacher, Mrs. Albert Bollenbacher, Mrs. Jerome Linn, Jerome Linn.

OUR ADULT MEMBERS—GROUP II



First row: Mrs. Robert Stuber, Mrs. Arthur Bollenbacher, Mr. Carroll Cully, Mrs. Roy Christian, Mr. Frank Smerik, Mrs. Morris Bollenbacher, Mrs. Lester Ferguson, Mrs. Ben Eichenauer, Mrs. Jane Eichenauer, Mrs. Russel Ferguson, Mrs. Jerome Bollenbacher, Mrs. Herbert Bollenbacher, Mrs. Lloyd Baker.
Second row: Mrs. Vernon Schaadt, Mrs. John Jr. Bollenbacher, Mrs. Rex Bollenbacher, Mrs. Morris Koch, Mrs. Vernon Brumbaugh, Mrs. Paul Snyder, Mrs. Earl Gehm, Mrs. Lowell Brinkman, Mrs. Ralph Nave, Mrs. Earl Deitsch, Mrs. Robert Gehm, Mrs. Donald Deitsch, Robert Gehm.
Third row: Waldo Baker, Lloyd Baker, Robert Stuber, Earl Deitsch, Herbert Bollenbacher, Donald Deitsch, Russel Ferguson, Ralph Nave, Arthur Bollenbacher, Ben Eichenauer, Vernon Brumbaugh.
Fourth row: Morris Bollenbacher, Carroll Cully, Rex Bollenbacher, Lester Miller, John Jr. Bollenbacher, Jerome Bollenbacher, Vernon Schaadt, Lowell Brinkman, Morris Koch, Frank Smerik, Lester Ferguson.

OUR ADULT MEMBERS—GROUP III



Children in front: Mary Kable, Sharon Fetter, Sarah Jane Bollenbacher, Donna Bollenbacher, Tommy Bollenbacher, Gene Alt, Allen Baker, Arleen Bollenbacher, Myron Bauer, Lois Bauer
First row: Mrs. Herbert Kuhn, Mrs. Dan Bollenbacher, Mrs. John Schadt, Mrs. Henry Baker, Mrs. Mary Gehm, Mrs. Edwin Bollenbacher, Mrs. Otto Fickert, Mrs. Robert Doner, Mrs. Wayne Doner, Robert Marbaugh, Mrs. Roma Bollenbacher, Karen Bollenbacher, Cheryl Baker, Lee Baker, Robert Doner, David Doner, Eldon Stetler, Lloyd Fickert
Second row: Miss Leota Bollenbacher, Dan Bollenbacher, Henry Baker, Edwin Bollenbacher, Richard Stuber, Tommy Baker, Claire Stetler, Don Baker, Lois Fickert, Donna Baker
Third row: Mrs. Elmer Gehm, Theo, Bauer, Mrs. Theo, Bauer, Ralph Alt, Mrs. Ralph Alt, Miss Viola Haas, Mrs. Henry Alt, Mrs. Homer Bollenbacher, Mrs. Harold Stetler, Mrs. Harry Bradshaw, Tona Bradshaw, Rose Ann Bollenbacher, Harold Stetler
Fourth row: Elmer Gehm, Evelyn Gehm, Raymond Fetter, Miss Gretchen Fetter, Mrs. Arthur Scheidler, Mrs. Raymond Fetter, Mrs. Theo, Bollenbacher, Harold Bollenbacher, Lewis Kable, John Weisenborn, Otto Fickert, Henry Bollenbacher, Harry Bradshaw, Lewis Bauer, Mrs. Lewis Bauer, Miss Lela Jane Bauer

OUR ADULT MEMBERS—GROUP IV

A New Era

Rev. Wahl was succeeded by Rev. E. A. Mayer who was serving a charge at Andrews, Ind. Rev. Mayer was installed July 1, 1938. A few months later the congregation decided to renovate the Church. The activities which followed can best be summed up by quoting from a report which Rev. Mayer submitted to the congregation after the present church was dedicated.

A Brief History of Our Building Project

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."
Psalm 127:1

With these words, you will recall, my dear friends of St. Paul's, we laid the cornerstone of our new church edifice, on a hot July Sunday morning after our regular service of worship in the parish hall. The words from the 127th Psalm served as the text for the sermon, after which the ceremony of cornerstone-laying was held at the church site. It was a large company of joyous people who joined in a long procession of automobiles and made their way from the parish hall to gather around the foundations of the new church under a blistering noon-day sun. At that time there was as yet not much to be seen by the outward eye to arouse any high expectations. The old structure had been partly dismantled and its skeleton had been hoisted upon the new foundation. In some places the floor joist hung unsupported by the foundation presenting a very ramshackle spectacle to the passerby, who might be excused for remarking sympathetically, "I hope they get it put together again before the whole thing falls in the cellar." Altogether it made an unpromising sight to behold. That was in July, 1941. But we've gotten ahead of the story.

Let's begin again from the beginning. That takes us back to the fall of 1938. There was an informal meeting or two in the parish hall of the council and any who were interested, at which time various possibilities were discussed. A representative of the Hammond Electric Organ Company made a few suggestions. Estimates on moving the parish hall

(Continued on page 22)

Our Youth Fellowship

The Young Peoples League was organized some time around 1915 as far as we are able to determine. Due to inadequate records we cannot give an accurate report; but ever since the present pastor has been in Ohio, St. Paul has always had an active youth organization.

The more recent activities of the League or Youth Fellowship bear witness to this fact. They have presented plays, made and sold Christmas toys (Chattoys), purchased a mimeograph, a loud speaking and recording system, entertained the Children of the Ft. Wayne Children's Home and contributed \$100.00 to the Children's Home building campaign. They have a volleyball court, and provide recreation in the Parish Hall.

Our young people meet once a month for devotional and business meetings.

The present officers are Harold Bollenbacher, President; Clifford Bollenbacher, Vice-president; Madonna Wendel, Secretary; and Jerry Bollenbacher, Treasurer. Vernon Brumbaugh and Norma Deitsch are the young people's advisors.

May we ever keep in mind the advice of St. Paul: "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Then we shall always be found moving 'onward and upward.'"





First row: Matilda Gehm, Norma Deitsch, Pauline Linn, Irene Bollenbacher, Pauline Wendel, Joan Fox, Madonna Wendel, Eileen Miller, Martha Jane Bollenbacher, Gloria Weitzner, Madonna Bollenbacher, Edna Jane Linn
Second row: John Hezler, Miss Martha Meikle, William Weinmann, Eileen Weinmann, Lloyd Bollenbacher, Ruby Pond, Lena Weitz, Margaret Merkle, Lester Gehm, Warren Deitsch
Third row: Dean Baker, Donald Bollenbacher, Junior Linn, Kenneth Bransteter, Floyd Brehm, Richard Fark, Harold Bollenbacher, Jr., Donald Schaad, Jerry Bollenbacher, Lowell Bollenbacher, Clifford Bollenbacher, Billy Rutledge, Vernon Brumbaugh
Fourth row: Lewis Baker, Duane Wood, Melvin Linn, Noel Gehm, Roma Miller, Edgar Lee Bollenbacher, David Merkle, James Koch, Ralph Ahrens, John Wendel, Earl Ahrens, Lewis Merkle Jr., Herman Ahrens, Jr.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF ST. PAUL



Seated: Eileen Miller, Pauline Linn, Lowell Bollenbacher, Donald Schaad, Jerry Bollenbacher, Doris Fickert, Madonna Bollenbacher, Eva Jane Linn.
Back row: Carl Wendel, Billy Rutledge, Ilene Bollenbacher, Clifford Bollenbacher, Martha Jane Bollenbacher, Rev. H. C. Ahrens, Madonna Wendel, Eugene Baker, Pauline Wendel, Lloyd Fickert, Robert Kuhn.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 1946



First row: Linda Deitsch, Edward Schaeft, Duane Bollenbacher, Bonnie Gause, Karen Deitsch, Nita Hoblet, Sarah Eichenauer, Gary Brumbaugh, David Koch, Allen Brumbaugh, Terry Gehm, Lowell Gehm

Second row: Miss Norma Deitsch, Bevan Deitsch, Ruth Ahrens, Jerry Rutledge, Janet Koch, Alice Stuber, Dean Gehm, Lowell Miller, Janet Baker, Paul Bollenbacher, Larry Miller, Thomas Stuber, Mary Lou Gehm.

Third row: Mrs. Vernon Brumbaugh, Charles Koch, Kathleen Lynn, Diana Hoblet, Larry Bollenbacher, Duane Lynn, Dean Bollenbacher, Gene Miller, Bert Worthing, Virginia Bollenbacher, Doris Bollenbacher, Lester Miller, Mrs. Paul Snyder.

Back row: Wilma Weinmann, Mrs. Albert Bollenbacher, Linda Hoblet, Lester Lynn, Glenna Deitsch, Sonida Hoblett, Gene Koch, Jack Rutledge, John Wendel

PRIMARY, JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE DEPT. OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

(Continued from page 18)

to the church or vice versa were presented. A meeting of the Church Council on the afternoon of Dec. 8th with Dr. Henry E. Tralle, church building consultant, was arranged. Dr. Tralle was working on a church project at West Jefferson at that time and after being contacted by the pastor had offered to meet with our Council and explain the type of service which he renders. This meeting with Dr. Tralle helped to create interest in the various possibilities.

On Jan. 2nd, 1939, at the annual congregational meeting a Building Committee was elected, consisting of Arlie Koch, Warren Weisenborn and Mrs. Fred Miller to keep the matter before the congregation and take what steps they could to arouse interest. During February, on the way back from the pastors' convocation at Eden Seminary, the pastor visited the Wicks Organ Co., at Highland, Ill., and subsequently a representative of that firm, Mr. H. M. Anderson, visited the church and had the firm's architect draw a few sketches indicating some minor alterations in the front of the church. During the summer the Council and Building Committee, having in mind the installations of a furnace and the removal of the partition and post, with the possible installation of basement Sunday School rooms, made a canvass of the congregation. The canvass brought in pledges amounting to less than two thousand dollars, indicating that the plans would have to be more definite and generally acceptable. However, a beginning had been made.

On Jan. 1, 1940, the Building Committee was re-elected and instructed to continue their efforts in behalf of a more worshipful sanctuary and better church school facilities. Now the Building Committee recommended to the Council that the aforementioned Dr. Tralle be hired to make a survey of the congregation and give his recommendations. In reply to a letter Dr. Tralle telegraphed that he could come Feb. 4th. However, the telegram was delayed making it impossible to arrange a conference for that date. The next available date was Sunday, April 14th. Dr. Tralle arrived in time to visit our Sunday School and preach the sermon that morning. His text was "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock will I build my church." Throughout the afternoon

and evening until about eleven o'clock Dr. Tralle interviewed about thirty members of the congregation, individually at the church. These were Council members, officers of the various organizations, committee chairmen, and Church School workers as chosen by the Council and Building Committee. On Monday Dr. Tralle compiled the information and suggestions he had received, formulated his report and made a sketch of the manner in which he thought the building could be altered and estimated the cost of the project. A congregational meeting was held Monday evening to receive Dr. Tralle's report. He recommended removal of post and partition, installation of a partition running east and west to create a rectangular church sanctuary and a class room to the north. He further recommended a center aisle, straight pews, platform across the front for pulpit, lectern and altar, dossal cloth and cross above the altar. Additional Church School class rooms were to be provided by an addition built on the east end of the building. The cost of this he estimated at \$4,000 without furnace, \$5,000 with furnace. New windows and rugs were also included in the suggestions. On April 26th, the Council and Building Committee met and officially adopted the recommendation of Dr. Tralle and arranged for congregational meeting to take further action. The congregational meeting was held on Ascension Day in the evening, May 2nd. By a close vote of 42-39 the plan was rejected.

No further steps seemed possible at the time, so nothing was done until the next annual meeting, Jan. 1st, 1941. At this meeting, upon the insistence of the Building Committee a new committee was elected. Mrs. Miller, Arlie Koch and Warren Weisenborn had served efficiently for two years and their resignation was accepted with expressions of appreciation for what they had done.

The new committee consisted of Lester Miller, Otto Wendel, Victor Bollenbacher, Mrs. Andrew Deitsch and Mrs. Kenneth Hoblet. Vernon Schaadt, as treasurer of Building Fund, subsequently became a member of the Building Committee. This committee set to work with the help of the contractors Hisey and Bebout of Van Wert, to draw up two alternate plans to present to the congregation. One plan consisted of Church School class rooms in a proposed basement

(Continued on page 26)



First row: Gary Dee Linn, Becky Ferguson, Judith Brinkman, Julia Snyder, Marvin Schaadt, Mrs. Edwin Schaadt, Jerry Schaadt, Mary Jane Eichenauer, Janice Bollenbacher, Mrs. Morris Bollenbacher, Mrs. Frank Smerik, Sandra Smerik, Mrs. H. C. Ahrens, Karen Smerik.

Back row: Mrs. Jerome Linn, Mrs. Amelia Weinmann, Beverly Ann Ferguson, Mrs. Lester Ferguson, Virzuma Brinkman, Mrs. Lowell Brinkman, Mrs. Paul Snyder, Daniel Koch, Mrs. Morris Koch, Mrs. Ben. Eichenauer, John Eichenauer, Mrs. Wm. Gehm, Larry Gehm, Mrs. Lloyd Baker, Catherine Ruth Baker.

OUR CRADLE ROLL

Our Religious Education Department

"Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you."

Religious education has always been considered vital in St. Paul. Two years of catechetical instruction is expected of all children who are confirmed, even as it was 80 years ago. In order that the children might be more thoroughly instructed in the things which the Lord commanded, summer schools were conducted. The children were instructed in the German language as well as in the scriptures. The Vacation Bible school, conducted in the Parish Hall each summer, is an outgrowth of the former summer school.

Our first Sunday School records date back to May, 1888. At that time there were only a few classes and teachers. The teachers were as follows: Mary Koch, Louis Baker, Miss Lydia Baker, Emma Schaadt, Marie Baker, Adam Bollenbacher, and C. H. Brehm.

These records reveal the following interesting facts. The highest attendance was 58, the lowest 20. The highest collection was 28c. A report of the weather conditions from Sunday to Sunday indicated that disagreeable weather was responsible for the lowest attendance.

As the years rolled by the attendance increased so that St. Pauls today has a rural Sunday School of which she can justly feel proud. The Sunday School at present is in the process of building soundproof class rooms in the basement. The school contributes to the annual mission offering and this year cooperated with the Church, the Youth Fellowship, and private individuals in raising a quota of \$705.00 for a new Children's Home building in Ft. Wayne, Ind.

The officers and teachers for 1947 and 1948 are as follows:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---------------------|
| Superintendent | - | - | - | - | Fred J. Miller |
| Assistant Superintendent | - | - | - | - | Miss Wilma Weinmann |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| Secretary | - | - | - | - | Ralph Ahrens |
| Assistant Secretary | - | - | - | - | Miss Eileen Weinmann |
| Treasurer | - | - | - | - | Albert Bollenbacher |
| Birthday Secretary | - | - | - | - | Miss Madonna Bollenbacher |

TEACHERS

Cradle Roll

| |
|----------------------|
| Mrs. H. C. Ahrens |
| Mrs. Amelia Weinmann |

Beginners

| |
|--------------------------|
| Mrs. Paul Snyder |
| Mrs. Jerome Bollenbacher |

Primary

| |
|---------------------|
| Dwight Laffin |
| Mrs. Kenneth Hoblet |

Junior

| |
|--------------------------|
| Mrs. Albert Bollenbacher |
| Mrs. Vernon Brumbaugh |

Confirmation Class

| |
|---------------|
| Lester Miller |
| John Wendel |

Young People

| |
|--------------------|
| Miss Norma Deitsch |
| Vernon Brumbaugh |

New Era

| |
|---------------|
| Class Members |
|---------------|

Friendly Circle and Adult Classes

| |
|-------------------|
| Mrs. Andy Gehm. |
| Rev. H. C. Ahrens |





Seated: Miss Matilda Gehm, Mrs. Amelia Weinmann, Mrs. Andy Gehm, Miss Lena Weitz, Miss Norma Deutsch, Mrs. H. C. Ahrens, Mrs. Albert Bollenbacher, Rev. H. C. Ahrens
Second row: Lester Miller, Mrs. Rex Bollenbacher, Mrs. Paul Snyder, Miss Earl Gehm, Miss Wilma Weinmann, Miss Madonna Bollenbacher, Mrs. Vernon Brumbaugh, Mrs. Hugo Schadt
Last row: John Wendel, James Koch, Rex Bollenbacher, John Jr. Bollenbacher, Jerome Bollenbacher, Lester Gehm, Vernon Schaadt, Vernon Brumbaugh.

TEACHERS AND OFFICERS OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL, 1946-1947

THE HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

(Continued from page 22)

and the other plan consisted of Church School class rooms in a proposed addition to the east end of the building as suggested by Dr. Tralle. The plans were alike in other respects and except for this alternate feature were the same as presented at the April meeting of the previous year. At the congregational meeting held Feb. 26th there was first a unanimous vote to make improvements and to choose one of the two alternate plans. Fifty-nine votes were cast. Then thirty-seven (37) votes were cast in favor of the "basement plan" and twenty-two (22) in favor of the "addition plan." The estimated cost of either plan was given as \$6,000.

The committee met the next night and steps were taken to receive pledges. Pledge cards were distributed the next Sunday after church, March 2nd, and were collected again on the following Sunday, March 9th. Four thousand dollars were received in short-term pledges on this one Sunday and more came in during the week. Charles Gray, contractor of Coldwater, Ohio, was hired on March 25th by the hour to do the work, the contract plan being rejected due to the nature of the alterations and uncertainty regarding many of the details.

Pews and pulpits were moved from the church to the parsonage hall May 15 for services there during the building operations, and digging of the basement of the new church began shortly thereafter. On July 27th the aforementioned cornerstone service was held.

Work progressed slowly during the summer because of shortage of labor and delay in procuring some materials. In the meantime various suggestions for additional improvements were considered by the Building Committee and on October 26th, Sunday morning between the Church School hour and worship, the congregation approved the expenditure of additional funds as would be required for various items not included in the previous estimate. These included among other things, a new roof, siding, plumbing and rest rooms in the basement and a sound system for the hard-of-hearing. (The final cost as the report following shows was \$11,620.21.) Only

(Continued on page 28)

Our Women's Guild

The Ladies Aid or "Frauen Verein," as it was originally called, was organized in 1898. We do not have a record of the original members; but the records of 1903 list 33 members. Of that number the following are still living and are believed to be Charter members: Mrs. George Anselman of Lima, Ohio, Mrs. S. Egger of Van Wert, Ohio, Mrs. Jacob Bollenbacher, and Mrs. Peter Brehm. Mrs. Jacob Bollenbacher, who assisted in organizing the society states that there were around twelve at the first meeting, but that it grew rapidly. At first the Aid met only quarterly, in January, April, July, and October.

The first expenditure recorded was \$5.65 for a carpet, evidently for the Church. The second item was \$1.60 for a rocking chair, evidently a Christmas gift for the parsonage. Thus from the start, our women have expressed an interest in both the Church and the parsonage; and have proven a great blessing to both.

The Aid was also mission minded from the start, for the next item states, "For relief in India \$15.00."

The Sixth Annual Convention of the West Ohio Evangelical Women's Federation was held here May 5, 1929. It must have been a mountain top experience to entertain 150 registered guests at that time.

Unfortunately space does not permit us to relate the many services rendered through the challenge, the thank offering, the regular dues, and other means of service. This would make a book in itself. The Church and the pastors who have served in the past would want us to express thanks for these services; and may God bless you for it.

Though every woman in the Church is in reality a member of the guild, there are 68 active members in our ladies society.

The guild meets the first Thursday of each month.

The present officers are Mrs. Albert Bollenbacher, president; Mrs. Kenneth Hoblet, Vice-president; Mrs. Russel Ferguson, Secretary; Mrs. Victor Bollenbacher, Assistant Secretary; Mrs. Henry Bollenbacher, Treasurer.

May our Guild always be remembered as was Tabitha of old because: "She was full of good works and acts of charity."



Seated: Miss Matilda Gehm, Mrs. John Koch, Mrs. Anna Schaadt, Mrs. Otto Wendel, Mrs. Wm. Weitz, Mrs. Val Deitsch, Mrs. Nettie Schaadt, Mrs. Wm. Schaadt, Mrs. Sophia Erchm, Mrs. Andy Bollenbacher, Mrs. Chas. Bollenbacher, Mrs. Louise Bollenbacher, Mrs. Margaret Linn.
Second row: Mrs. Arlie Koch, Mrs. M. A. Linn, Mrs. Geo. Koch, Mrs. Elizabeth Bollenbacher, Mrs. Mary Stuckey, Mrs. Lewis Schaadt, Miss Katherine Kable, Mrs. Henry Deitsch, Mrs. Val Linn, Mrs. Victor Bollenbacher, Mrs. Amelia Weinmann, Rev. H. C. Ahrens, Mrs. Edward Schaefer, Mrs. Acretta Bollenbacher, Mrs. Herbert Schaadt, Mrs. Earl Deitsch, Mrs. Russel Ferguson, Mrs. Earl Gehm, Mrs. Theo. Bollenbacher, Mrs. Albert Bollenbacher, Mrs. H. C. Ahrens, Mrs. Jerome Bollenbacher, Mrs. Paul Snyder.
Third row: Mrs. Jerome Brumley, Mrs. Roy Christian, Mrs. Edwina Schaefer, Mrs. Acretta Bollenbacher, Mrs. Kenneth Hoblet.
Back row: Mrs. Andy Deitsch, Mrs. Leo Baker, Mrs. Ervin Wood, Mrs. Tona Baker, Mrs. Ben Eichenauer, Mrs. Andy Gehm, Mrs. Fred Miller, Mrs. Lewis Brehm, Mrs. Oscar Bollenbacher, Mrs. Jerome Linn, Mrs. Henry Bollenbacher, Mrs. Roy Christian, Mrs. Kenneth Hoblet.

OUR WOMEN'S GUILD

THE HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

(Continued from page 26)

twelve hundred and eighty-six dollars were in the building fund when the project was started in the spring of 1941.

The first service held in the new church was a Communion Service on Sunday, Dec. 28th, 1941. Amidst much rejoicing and thanksgiving two Sundays were set aside for special Dedication Services Jan. 25th and Feb. 1st. Rev. C. Schmid, pastor of our sister church at Berne and Rev. J. C. Melchert, President of the Northwest Ohio Synod, Dr. L. W. Goebel, President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, Prof. A. O. Miller and a group of young people from Heidelberg College were our special guests and brought the messages. After the Dedicationary Service only about \$400 remained unpaid or unpledged and this balance was taken care of by a special offering received a few weeks later. Most pledges were paid within three or six months, and now every pledge, without exception, has been paid in full, leaving a small balance after all bills are paid.

Thus a project which had meager beginnings in the fall of 1938 has finally been brought to a successful conclusion with a fine spirit of cooperation on the part of the members and the blessing of God crowning our efforts.

May St. Paul's Church, and its members, continue to prosper under the smile of God's benediction, and may He continue to use His Church to further the cause of His Kingdom in our community and abroad.

Affectionately submitted, in the service of our common Lord,

Rev. Edw. A. Mayer, Pastor."

Thus during the pastorate and leadership of Rev. Mayer, St. Pauls erected a sanctuary which has become a model place of worship and referred to by synodical leaders as an ideal rural Church. This should ever be an inspiration to the members of St. Paul. When the church bells announce the worship service, the response should be that of the Psalmist: "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of the Lord."

Continued on page 30)



Herman Arthur Baker
Gold Star World War II



Charles Schaad
Gold Star World War II

Honor Roll of St. Paul, World War II

*Herman Arthur Baker

Ahrens, Earl
Ahrens, Herman Jr.
Andrews, Robert
Baker, Charles
Baker, Lewis O.
Baker, Lloyd
Baker, Victor
Baker, Waldo
Bauer, Clarence
Bollenbacher, Arthur
Bollenbacher, Glenn
Bollenbacher, Jerome
Bollenbacher, John Jr.
Bollenbacher, Lloyd
Bollenbacher, Raymond
Bollenbacher, R. Rex
Bradshaw, Harry
Brehm, Floyd
Brinkman, Lowell
Christian, Roy
Deitsch, Donald
Deitsch, Warren
Ferguson, Lester
Fickert, Deloris
Fickert, Roma
Gehm, Lester
Haas, Harold
Huffman, Robert
Koch, Glenn
Linn, Harold
Linn, Harry
Linn, Leo
Linn, Melvin
Marbaugh, Robert
Merkle, Lewis Jr.
Miller, Roma
Nave, Ralph
Schaadt, Frederick
Schaadt, Vernon
Schumm, Donald
Smerik, Frank
Snyder, Paul
Weitz, Elmer
Wood, Duane

*Our Gold Star Hero.



Seated: Lester Ferguson, Carroll Cully, Waldo Baker, Lawrence Baker, Theo Bollenbacher, John Jr Bollenbacher, Earl Ahrens, Duane Wood, Lloyd Bollenbacher, Warren Deitsch, Melvin Linn.
Second row: Vernon Schmit, Oscar Bollenbacher, Lloyd Baker, Arthur Bollenbacher, Harold Haas, Ralph Nave, Lewis Merkle, Lester Gehm, Floyd Brehm.
Back row: Lewis O. Baker, Jerome Bollenbacher, Frank Smerik, Rex Bollenbacher, Donald Deitsch, Lowell Brinkman, Herman Ahrens, Jr., Roma Miller.

ST. PAUL'S EX-SERVICE MEN OF WORLD WAR I AND II

THE HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

(Continued from page 28)

In the spring of 1944, Rev. Mayer received a call from the Unity Church, Antigo, Wisconsin. It was with regrets that the congregation accepted his resignation.

Some time later a call was extended to Rev. Theo. Eisen of Niles, Michigan. He did not accept the call, however, because he was not satisfied with the parsonage. Consequently the congregation decided to build a new parsonage. Due to the war, nothing further was done until the annual congregational meeting of 1946 when the following committee was selected as a new parsonage committee: Vernon Schaadt, Lester Miller, Leo Baker, Mrs. Russel Ferguson, and Mrs. Earl Deitsch. This committee together with the present pastor have spent many hours making building plans and preparations. At the present time indications are that the new parsonage will be built just east of the Church early in 1948.

In June of 1944 a call was extended to Rev. H. C. Ahrens of Marion, Ohio, who accepted the call and together with his family moved into this community Aug. 30, 1944. He shall endeavor, with the help of God, to build upon the foundation which his predecessors have laid remembering the words of St. Paul, "no other foundation can any man lay, than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Two sons of the congregation, Noel Gehm and Warren Deitsch, are attending Heidelberg College and preparing themselves to build upon this foundation as Christian ministers. St. Paul is offering them financial support by paying for as much of their tuition as possible. The Church is also participating in the Heidelberg Building Campaign.

By God's grace and blessing we have met our local, benevolent and war relief quotas and shall give our whole-hearted support toward raising the \$3,000,000 World Service Program of our Evangelical and Reformed Church. We have experienced that a giving Church is a living Church. Never before has St. Paul had a surplus in its treasury equal to that of today. God indeed loves those who give cheerfully. May our Church also continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Only as we are faithful to the end shall we receive the crown of life.

Two events in our Church history stand out as significant in 1947.

The one is the Men's Congress held in our Church on the afternoon and evening of October 12. Prof. G. T. Hayes of Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, and Prof. Carl Schneider of Eden Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo., were the speakers. Lester Miller, elected president of the Men's Congress, presided at the evening meeting. Our women were highly complimented in the efficient manner in which they served the 230 registered delegates of the West Ohio region of our North West Ohio Synod. Our male quartette provided special numbers.

The other event is the 80th anniversary of our Church. Early in 1947 the various organizations of the Church and the Church Council decided to celebrate this event and prepare an anniversary booklet for the occasion. Sunday, November 16 was selected as the appropriate date. The program is as follows. Rev. E. A. Mayer of Antigo, Wisconsin, a former pastor, will deliver the morning message. Rev. C. A. Schmid of Berne, Ind., who has so graciously supplied St. Pauls on several occasions, will bring the message of the afternoon. Rev. R. J. Loew of Wapakoneta, vice-president of the Northwest Ohio Synod, and a son-in-law of Rev. Karl Mueller who was a former pastor, will represent the synod in the evening service. We trust that the anniversary will prove a spiritual blessing to one and all.

Thus we bring to a close fourscore years of service for and with the Master.

In concluding this history, we regret that we could not give every member the credit which he or she deserves. We do want every one to know, however, that every service rendered to Christ and the Church is appreciated.

We hope that whatever mistakes have been made may be overlooked for none were made intentionally. We trust that this history will create a deeper devotion to the Church of which we are a part and to the Saviour whose name we bear. Then, dear reader, this booklet will prove a blessing to St. Paul, as it was intended; and the "Faith of Our Fathers" will continue to live throughout the ages.



GOD'S ACRE FOR ST. PAUL MEMBERS

PROGRAM
for the
EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE
of the
ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED
CHURCH
Chattanooga, Ohio
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1947

Morning Worship, 10:30 O'clock

Announcements and Prelude
Opening Sentence, Psalm 100
Hymn 96, "Awake, Awake for Night Is Flying"
Confession of Faith, (Congregation Standing)
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
Vocal Solo, "The Holy City" - - - Mrs. Morris Koch
The Scripture Lesson, Psalm 84
Selection "Softly and Tenderly" - - - Male Quartet
Lowell Weitz, Leo Baker, Ralph Ahrens, Arlie Koch
Our Thank Offering for "World Service"
Response, Hymn 258, "We Give Thee but Thine
Own" - - - Congregation
Hymn 322, "The Church's One Foundation"
The Morning Message - Rev. Edward A. Mayer, Antigo, Wis.
Closing Prayer and Benediction
Doxology
Postlude

Afternoon Anniversary Service, 2:30 O'clock

Announcements and Prelude
Invocation - - - Rev. True Yochem
Pastor of Chattanooga Methodist Church
Hymn 323, "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"
Responsive Reading, "Church Anniversary," Selection 74, P. 604
Read by Rev. F. H. Graper, Van Wert, Ohio
Vocal Solo, "We Gather Together" - Miss Margaret Merkle
Pastoral Prayer

Vocal Solo, "What a Friend We Have in
Jesus" - - - - - Miss Bonnie Gause
Recognition of Rev. and Mrs. S. Eggers
Our Thank Offering for Heidelberg College
Hymn 329, "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"
The Afternoon Message: "The Changeless Christ,"
Hebrews 13:8 - - Rev. C. A. Schmid, Berne, Indiana
Benediction
Closing Hymn 282, "Faith of Our Fathers"
Postlude

Evening Anniversary Service, 7:30 O'clock

Announcements and Prelude
Opening Sentence, Psalm 103:1-4
Hymn 326, "O Where Are Kings and Empires Now?"
Pastoral Prayer - - - - Rev. Edward A. Mayer
Vocal Duet, "Sweet Peace, the Gift of God's
Love" - Mrs. Albert Bollenbacher and Mrs. Hugo Schaad
Scripture Lesson, Ephesians 4:1-15
Vocal Duet, "Back to Gethsemane,"
- - - Mrs. Dwight Laffin and Mrs. Linus Klosterman
Thank Offering
Hymn 286, "Who Is on the Lord's Side?"
Evening Message: "Let Us Persevere" Philippians 3:12-15
Rev. R. J. Loew, Wapakoneta, O., Vice President of North-
west Ohio Synod
Benediction
Closing Hymn 292, "Onward Christian Soldiers"
Postlude





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